

What the Hell?!

Episode 2: The Part Time Receptionist

by

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CHARACTERS

LIFT MECHANIC

20, tall and a little overweight. He has crazy eyes and a mental smile. He carries his spanner and hammer on his belt, his jeans and t-shirt are worn.

CUSTOMER NO. 1

20, in casual clothing. He is naive and friendly.

CUSTOMER NO. 2

A business man (30). He is very foolish.

FADE IN:

INT: HOTEL RECEPTION - DAY

Wallpaper is peeling and the floor tiles are cracked. Lighting is good, but its source is buzzing. A reception desk houses a credit card machine, and a microphone and speaker. By the speaker, are a number of buttons. The LIFT MECHANIC with his old clothes and equipment, stands behind the counter, with far doors, by both his sides. He also faces CUSTOMER NO. 1 (20). He is in casual clothing.

CUSTOMER NO. 1

Hello... This place is... really tacky.

LIFT MECHANIC

Don't worry, it's purely intentional. It's just the theme of the hotel.

CUSTOMER NO. 1

I understand. So what's cheapest room here, like?

LIFT MECHANIC

Not great...

CUSTOMER NO. 1

Oh. What about the mid range rooms?

LIFT MECHANIC

They still kind of suck..

CUSTOMER NO. 1

The best room?

LIFT MECHANIC

Not fit for cockroaches.

CUSTOMER NO. 1

Hmm. Well at least your honest!

LIFT MECHANIC

You like honesty?

CUSTOMER NO. 1

I'm sorry?

LIFT MECHANIC

The best room is not only unfit for cockroaches, turning the lights on might set you on fire, and the door doesn't work.

CUSTOMER NO.1 laughs, and his body language becomes more relaxed.

CUSTOMER NO. 1
 (not believing him)
 Wow. How much does it cost to stay in
 it for a couple of days?

LIFT MECHANIC
 Around £600...

CUSTOMER NO. 1
 Hahaha, that's great.

LIFT MECHANIC
 It is?

CUSTOMER NO. 1
 (laughing)
 Sure! I'm feeling crazy. Book me your
 worst room, for 2 days!

LIFT MECHANIC
 Ok, that will be £500...

CUSTOMER NO. 1
 Sure it is!

CUSTOMER 1 hands the LIFT MECHANIC his credit card, from his
 pocket. He then puts in the PIN code.

CUSTOMER NO. 1
 And how do I get to the hell hole?

LIFT MECHANIC
 The stairs past that door, over there.
 ..

CUSTOMER NO. 1
 Which one?

LIFT MECHANIC
 The one you didn't just come out of.

The MECHANIC points to the correct exit.

CUSTOMER NO. 1
 What floor is it on?

LIFT MECHANIC
 Top floor. Lovely views of trains, but
 it's the most dangerous room. Hence
 the cheaper price.

CUSTOMER NO. 1
 (laughing again)
 It's dangerous?

LIFT MECHANIC
Kind of. What goes up, and all that...

CUSTOMER NO. 1
You don't have a lift to get ther...

LIFT MECHANIC
(cutting in)
NO!

CUSTOMER NO. 1
No?

LIFT MECHANIC
There were some legal issues involving
the thing. All over now, though. But
take the stairs, anyway...

CUSTOMER NO. 1
(laughing some more)
Oh, God! And what will happen if I
take the lift?

LIFT MECHANIC
Ahem...

CUSTOMER NO. 1
What?

LIFT MECHANIC
You'll be fine... I guess... It's just
scary, that's all. You might
experience short lived peril.

CUSTOMER NO. 1
Well let me ride it, then! Life's all
about experiences, right??

LIFT MECHANIC
I guess it's an experience to ride the
lift. Hell, it might be the best
experience of the rest of your life!

CUSTOMER NO. 1
Wow.

LIFT MECHANIC
Off you pop, then.

Completely oblivious to his potential fate, the CUSTOMER goes
through the door.

LIFT MECHANIC
Nice man.

The MECHANICS twiddles his thumbs in boredom, and hums the Enter Sandman riff. Then, a voice sounds from the speaker.

CUSTOMER NO. 1
(nervous)
Hello?

The MECHANIC speaks into the microphone, after dialing a number.

LIFT MECHANIC
Hello! Enjoying your stay?

CUSTOMER NO. 1
No, I'm experiencing too much peril!

LIFT MECHANIC
Oh, shit. What's happened?

CUSTOMER NO. 1
The cables are creaking!

LIFT MECHANIC
Oh, that old chestnut. You'll be fine.
..

CUSTOMER NO. 1
I think I've heard them snapping!

LIFT MECHANIC
All of them? You have four to get through...

CUSTOMER NO. 1
No, just one I think...

LIFT MECHANIC
Ahh... Ok, then. Enjoy the rest of your stay!

CUSTOMER NO. 1
That's all you have to say to me??

LIFT MECHANIC
Enjoy the rest of your stay... please?

CUSTOMER NO. 1
What if I die??

LIFT MECHANIC
I'm sorry, I don't know what happens then. Do you believe in God?

CUSTOMER NO. 1
I'm not so sure, now! What kind of person are you?!

LIFT MECHANIC
 Just calm down, alright? You need a
 more stoic and admirable attitude.
 Three cables are more than enough...

A loud snapping is heard.

CUSTOMER NO. 1
 Just two, now!!!

LIFT MECHANIC
 Two cables are more than enough...

And another...

CUSTOMER NO. 1
 Oh, God! Just one!

LIFT MECHANIC
 One is enough.

CUSTOMER NO. 1
 Oh, thank God, I'm at the top, and the
 doors have opened!

LIFT MECHANIC
 See??

A business man (30), walks into the reception, to face the
 MECHANIC.

CUSTOMER NO. 2
 Hello! Your cheapest room, please?
 I've just lost all my money gambling.

The CUSTOMER smiles.

LIFT MECHANIC
 You like a gamble, huh?

CUSTOMER NO. 2
 Definitely. I'm a huge risk taker.

LIFT MECHANIC
 Like to put your life on the line?

CUSTOMER NO. 2
 Er... This is a hotel, right?

LIFT MECHANIC
 Of course. But it's different, it's
 also a kind of casino. In a way. So...
 There is just one fruit machine-like
 lift here... And one rule...

CUSTOMER NO. 2

Excuse me?

LIFT MECHANIC

The only rule is... There are no rules!

CUSTOMER NO. 2

That sounds fun... What do I have to do?

LIFT MECHANIC

Nothing. Just wait in the lift.

CUSTOMER NO. 2

Wait for what?

The sound of the transporter crashing down, is heard. Only the MECHANIC knows what it is.

CUSTOMER NO. 2

What the hell is that??

LIFT MECHANIC

God dammit. Just take the stairs.

FADE TO: